

Appl. No.: 10/687,566
Amendment dated May 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of April 22, 2005

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A method for synchronizing a plurality of clocks wherein ~~at least one of the clocks is associated with a medical device system~~, the plurality of clocks comprising a first clock and a second clock, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - (a) disabling a run time mode;
 - ~~(b)(a)~~ receiving a selected time associated with the second clock, the selected time different than a reference time that is associated with the first clock, wherein at least one of the first clock or the second clock is associated with ~~a~~ the medical device system; and
 - (c) determining when the reference time equals the selected time;
 - ~~(d)(b)~~ setting the second clock to the selected time, in response to ~~step (ca)~~; and
 - (e) enabling the run time mode.
2. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the second clock is not associated with the medical device system.
3. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first clock is associated with the medical device system.
4. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (d)(b) comprises the~~ step of:
 - (i) setting the second clock by a component of the medical device system that is coupled to the second clock.
5. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein the plurality of clocks comprises a third clock, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~
 - ~~(f)(e)~~ receiving the selected time that is associated with the third clock; and
 - ~~(g)(d)~~ setting the third clock to the selected time, in response to ~~step (c)~~

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6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device system provides monitoring or treatment for a nervous system disorder.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the nervous system disorder is selected from the group consisting of a disorder of a central nervous system, a disorder of a peripheral nervous system, a mental health disorder, and a psychiatric disorder.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the nervous system disorder is selected from the group consisting of epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, essential tremor, dystonia, multiple sclerosis (MS), anxiety, a mood disorder, a sleep disorder, obesity, and anorexia.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the nervous system disorder is epilepsy.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein (b) comprises further comprising the steps of:~~

- (i)(e) sending a command that is associated with the first clock;
- (ii)(d) determining a delay time between the first clock and the second clock ~~executing step (e) and step (a);~~ and
- (iii)(e) adjusting the selected time using the delay time.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, ~~wherein (b) comprises further comprising the steps of:~~

- (i)(e) sending a command that is associated with the first clock;
- (ii)(d) determining a delay time between the first clock and the second clock ~~executing step (a) and step (b);~~ and
- (iii)(e) storing the delay time.

12. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the selected time is greater than the reference time.

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13. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:
~~(e) disabling a commencement of a run mode operation in order to prevent a discrepancy between two recordings of a same event time by the first clock and the second clock;~~
~~(f)(d) receiving a command to enable the run mode operation, the command being indicative that the selected time approximately equals the reference clock_i and~~
~~(e) enabling the run mode operation by the second clock~~
14. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the medical device system is selected from the group consisting of an external system, a hybrid system, and an implanted system.
15. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first clock is associated with a monitoring equipment that monitors the patient.
16. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the second clock is associated with a bedside device that is coupled to a medical implanted device.
17. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein step (c)(a) comprises the step of:
(i) determining that the reference time approximately equals the selected time by utilizing a Global Positioning System (GPS) clock reference.
18. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein step (c)(a) comprises the step of:
(i) determining that the reference time approximately equals the selected time by utilizing an atomic clock reference.

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19. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (c)(a)~~ comprises the ~~step of~~:

(i) determining that the reference time approximately equals the selected time by utilizing a time reference through a wireless communications connection.

20. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (c)(a)~~ comprises the ~~step of~~:

(i) determining that the reference time approximately equals the selected time by utilizing a time reference through an Internet connection.

21. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, wherein ~~step (c)(a)~~ comprises the ~~step of~~:

(i) receiving an indication from a user that the reference time approximately equals the selected time.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

(f)(e) receiving a current time from the second clock;

(g)(d) subtracting the current time from the reference time in order to determine a time difference; and

(h)(e) if the time difference is greater than a first predetermined amount, resynchronizing the first and second clocks.

23. **(Cancelled)**

24. **(Original)** The method of claim 1, wherein the first clock and the second clock are located in different time zones.

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25. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 1, ~~wherein (d) comprises- further comprising the step of:~~

(i)(e) adjusting the second clock in accordance with a time transition between standard time and daylight savings time.

26. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 1.

27. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 10.

28. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 11.

29. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 13.

30. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 22.

31. **(Original)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim 23.

Claims 32-34 **(Cancelled)**

35. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim ~~430~~.

36. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the steps recited in claim ~~531~~.

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Claims 37-41 (Cancelled)

42. (Currently Amended) A ~~system~~-apparatus method for synchronizing a plurality of clocks in a medical device system, the medical device system providing treatment to a patient with a nervous system disorder, the plurality of clocks comprising a first clock and a second clock, the ~~system~~-apparatus comprising:

- a user interface;
- a communications interface that is coupled to the second clock;
- a memory;
- a processor that is connected to the user interface in order to receive an instruction from a user, ~~the processor that is~~ connected to the memory and ~~configured to~~ instructs the second clock through the communications interface, the processor further configured to perform ~~the steps of~~:

- (a) receiving a selected time associated with the second clock, the selected time different than a reference time that is associated with the first clock; ~~wherein at least the first clock or the second clock is associated with the medical device system;~~ and

- (b) setting the second clock to the selected time so as to synchronize the first and second clock, ~~in response to step (a).~~

43. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising a Global Positioning System (GPS) clock reference, and wherein the processor is configured to further perform ~~the further step of~~:

- (c) determining that the reference time approximately equals the first selected time by utilizing the Global Positioning System (GPS) clock reference.

44. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising an atomic clock reference, and wherein the processor is configured to further perform ~~the further step of~~:

- (c) determining ~~that whether~~ the reference time approximately equals the first selected time by utilizing the atomic clock reference.

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45. **(Currently Amended)** The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the process is configured to further perform ~~the further step of~~:

(c) receiving an indication from the user through the user interface that the reference time approximately equals the selected time.

Claims 46-49 (Cancelled)

50. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 17, wherein ~~step (a) - (e) - b) is~~ are performed if a time difference between the first clock and the second clock exceeds a predetermined limit.

51. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 18, wherein ~~step (a) - (e) - b) is~~ are performed if a time difference between the first clock and the second clock exceeds a predetermined limit.

52. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 17, wherein ~~(a) - (e) - step - b) is~~ are performed periodically at a prespecified interval.

53. **(Currently Amended)** The method of claim 18, wherein ~~(a) - (e) - step - b) is~~ are performed periodically at a prespecified interval.

54. **(New)** A method for synchronizing a first clock and a second clock, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving a selected time in a programmer, the programmer associated with the first clock;
- (b) setting the first clock to the selected time; and

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(c) providing a control message to the second clock from the programmer, the second clock associated with a medical device, wherein the providing of the control message synchronizes the time on the first clock and the second clock.

55. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein (b) and (c) are not performed simultaneously.

56. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein (a) comprises:

(i) receiving a signal from a Global Positioning System reference.

57. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein (a) comprises:

(i) receiving a signal from a control line, the control line coupling the programmer to a second medical device.

58. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein (a) comprises:

(i) receiving a signal from an Internet connection.

59. (New) The method of claim 54, wherein (a) comprises:

(i) receiving a signal from a wireless communication connection.

60. (New) The method of claim 57, wherein the second medical device includes a third clock and (c) causes the first, second and third clock to be synchronized.